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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as provided below.

1 (currently amended). A spring fastener comprising: a first side and a second side opposite the first side, the first side connected to the second side thereby forming a U-shaped structure ~~having a cavity between the first side and the second side,~~

a bottom portion wherein the first side and the second side are connected, ~~and a top portion, the first side comprising first barbs having first front ends, and~~

a first engagement spring, ~~the first engagement spring~~ connected to the first side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, the second side comprising second barbs having second front ends, and

a second engagement spring, ~~the second engagement spring~~ connected to the second side in the vicinity of the bottom portion,

each of the first and second engagement springs ~~having a free end in the vicinity of the top portion, each spring also comprising a peak and an~~ a substantially flat engagement region with a hindrance portion between the free end and the peak in the vicinity of the peak, the hindrance portion comprising one to three ripples, each ripple having the form of a depression on said hindrance portion, the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion having a surface, wherein the depth of each ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple, ~~said ripple provides increased removal force, when the fastener is pulled by an extension of a first part engaged to the first and second barbs, after the fastener has been inserted into a slot of a second part, the slot having a slot width and edges on which edges a ripple of the hindrance portion is engaged thereby providing the engagement region is engaged, the increased removal~~

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~~force, being due to the hindrance portion, and wherein the fastener can be extracted when pulled by the extension without damage to said fastener.~~

2 (reinstated). A spring fastener as defined in claim 11, wherein the depth of the ripple is smaller than 0.2 mm.

3 (currently amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the hindrance portion comprises ripples, each ripple has the form of a depression, the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion has a surface, comprises not more than three ripples, ~~and wherein the depth of each ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple.~~

4 (previously presented). A spring fastener as defined in claim 11 fastener has been made of a material having a thickness, and wherein the depth of the ripple is smaller than said thickness.

5 (currently amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the hindrance portion comprises only one ripple.

6 (previously presented). A spring fastener as defined in claim 11, wherein the ripple width is larger than the depth of the ripple.

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PAGE 4/7 : RCVD AT 6/22/2006 3:05:55 AM [Eastern Daylight Time] : SVR:USPTO-EFXXRF-1/16 : DNS:2738300 : CSID:4083784434 : DURATION (mm:ss):02:34

depression having a deepest part, a back side substantially lacking a front side, and a width, the

7 (reinstated). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the ripple width is at least twice the size of the depth of the ripple.

8 (reinstated). A spring fastener as defined in claim 6, wherein the ripple width is in the range of 0.1 to 0.5 mm and the ripple depth is in the range of 0.01 to 0.1 mm.

9 (reinstated). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the back side has a slope in the range of 15 to 30 degrees with regard to the general plane of the hindrance portion.

10 (reinstated). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the front side has a higher slope than the back side.

11 (previously presented). A spring fastener comprising a first side and a second side opposite the first side, the first side connected to the second side thereby forming a U-shaped structure having a cavity between the first side and the second side, a bottom portion wherein the first side and the second side are connected, and a top portion, the first side comprising first barbs having first front ends, and a first engagement spring, the first engagement spring connected to the first side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, the second side comprising second barbs having second front ends, and a second engagement spring, the second engagement spring connected to the second side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, each of the first and second engagement springs having a free end in the vicinity of the top portion, each spring also comprising a peak and an engagement region with a hindrance portion between the free end and the peak, the hindrance portion comprising only one ripple having the form of a depression, the

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~~ripple provides increased removal force, when the fastener is pulled by an extension of a first part engaged to the first and second barbs, after the fastener has been inserted into a slot of a second part, the slot having a slot width and edges on which edges a ripple of the hindrance portion is engaged thereby providing, the increased removal force, and wherein the fastener can be extracted when pulled by the extension without damage to said fastener.~~

34 (reinstated). An assembly as defined in claim 38, wherein the depth of the ripple is smaller than 0.2 mm.

35 (currently amended). An assembly as defined in claim 33, wherein the hindrance portion comprises ripples, each ripple has the form of a depression, ~~the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion has a surface, comprises not more than three ripples, and wherein the depth of each ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple.~~

36 (reinstated). An assembly as defined in claim 33, wherein the hindrance portion comprises only one ripple.

37 (reinstated). An assembly as defined in claim 36, wherein the back side has a slope in the range of 15 to 30 degrees with regard to the general plane of the hindrance portion.

38 (previously presented). An assembly of a first part, the first part comprising an extension and a spring fastener, the spring fastener comprising a first side and a second side

32 (previously presented). A spring fastener as defined in claim 11, further comprising a relief opening in the vicinity of the bottom of the spring fastener.

33 (currently amended). An assembly of a first part, the first part comprising an extension and a spring fastener, the spring fastener comprising a first side and a second side opposite the first side, the first side connected to the second side thereby forming a U-shaped structure ~~having a cavity between the first side and the second side, in which cavity the rib of the first part is disposed,~~

a bottom portion wherein the first side and the second side are connected, ~~and a top portion, the first side comprising first barbs having first front ends, and~~

a first engagement spring, ~~the first engagement spring~~ connected to the first side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, the second side comprising second barbs, the first and second barbs engaging the extension of the first part, second front ends, and

a second engagement spring, ~~the second engagement spring~~ connected to the second side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, each of the first and second engagement springs having a free end in the vicinity of the top portion,

each spring also comprising a peak and a substantially flat engagement region with a hindrance portion ~~between the free end and the peak in the vicinity of the peak, the hindrance portion~~ comprising one to three ripples, each ripple having the form of a depression on said hindrance portion, the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion having a surface, wherein the depth of each ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple, ~~said~~

depression having a deepest part, a back side substantially lacking a front side, and a width, the hindrance portion further having a surface, wherein the depth of the ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the ripple, said ripple providing increased removal force, when the fastener is pulled by an extension of a first part engaged to the first and second barbs, after the fastener has been inserted into a slot of a second part, the slot having a slot width and edges on which edges the engagement region is engaged, the increased removal force being due to the hindrance portion, and wherein the fastener can be extracted when pulled by the extension without damage to said fastener.

12 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 11, wherein the back side has the form of a curvature with a gradually decreasing slope.

13 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 12, wherein the gradually decreasing slope has the shape of an arc in the range of 50-70 degrees with a radius in the range of 0.03 - 0.05 mm.

14 (currently amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the barbs are selected from a group consisting essentially of:

first barbs being outer barbs and second barbs being inner barbs;

~~first barbs being outside outer barbs and second barbs being inside outer barbs; and~~

first barbs being inner barbs and second barbs being inner barbs.